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Clarifying
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earnings—p. 4

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No money appropriated for Redress Education Fund

Congress failed to include any money for the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund in its appropriations for fiscal year 1994, even though President Clinton had included a \$5 million request for the fund in the proposed budget he sent to Congress earlier this year. However, \$100 million was approved for the individual redress payments.

The House of Representatives initial appropriations bill did contain a provision that attempted to authorize the Department of Justice to transfer to the Education Fund any money left over from the \$100 million individual redress appropriation. The initial Senate version of the bill contained no mention of the Education Fund.

The House language did not work for technical reasons. Congressmen Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) and Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), with the help of the Japanese American Citizens League, convinced the House members of the Conference Committee to consider including some funding in the Conference Committee's compromise bill.

The Conference Committee failed to include appropriations for the Civil Liberties Act Public Education Fund after Sen. Hollings (D-S.C.) indicated his intent to block funding, despite Sen. Daniel Inouye's (D-Hawaii) support for it. The Conference bill passed the House and the Senate last week.

JACL Washington Representative Karen Narasaki stated, "This is a disappointing setback for the Education Fund. Unfortunately, Sen. Hollings has long been a staunch opponent to redress and is in a position to block any appropriation."

JACL National Director Randy Senzaki stated, "The Education Fund is critical to ensuring that the lessons of the World War II internment of Americans are never forgotten. JACL remains committed to making the Education Fund a reality."

Sacramento Chapter, JACL re-opens

The Sacramento Chapter, JACL, re-opened its offices Oct. 27 at 2124 10th Street (10th Street off "U" Street). The facility was firebombed and destroyed by an unknown perpetrator on Saturday, Oct. 2, 1993.

Public officials, other civil rights groups, and members of the Japanese American community attended event.

To respond to its membership needs, the office will reopen with a small staff. The office will be open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Sacramento Chapter telephone number is 916/447-0231.

The chapter extends its appreciation to the Sacramento Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission for the temporary use of its office and staff, said chapter President Randy Imai.

New IDC officers

New officers were elected for the Intermountain District Council Oct. 16 at its meeting in Jackpot, Nev. They are:

Governor: Jeff Itami
First vice governor: Hid Hasegawa
Second vice governor: Larry Grant
Treasurer: Seiichi Hayashida
Secretary: Alice Kasai
Ex-officio/education chair: Randy Harano.



ITAMI

U.S.-Japan relations



GWEN MURANAKA

PANEL—From left, Peter Berton, Mike Mochizuki, David Arase, Fred Notehelfer and Steve Clemons discuss U.S.-Japan relations at the Oct. 24 forum in Gardena, Calif.

Still seeking solutions

Forum continues to examine new and better approaches to bringing the U.S. and Japan closer on trade and other issues . . .

By GWEN MURANAKA

Assistant editor
GARDENA—Calif. —Searching for new solutions, but coming up against old problems.

That was the message at the forum on U.S.-Japan relations held here Oct. 24. Speaking before a largely Japanese American audience, David Arase, professor of political science, Pomona College, said that the JACL and Japanese Americans need to work to keep discussion of U.S.-Japan issues focused on policies rather than racial or cultural stereotypes.

The event was sponsored by the PSW District Council, Carson Chapter, Gardena Valley Chapter, Greater L.A. Singles Chapter and South Bay Chapter.

The question before panelists was "what's in it for you?" Arase answered, "The bottom line issue is, frictions between the U.S. and Japan result in anti-Asian violence. As relations worsen, we might want to think about what we want to do to manage the situation."

While issues of racism and prejudice are nothing new to Japanese Americans, Prof. Fred Notehelfer, professor of history, Japan Studies Department, UCLA, summed up a new era and a new attitude in Japan toward America with the words of a Kobe taxi driver who said to him in 1987, "Gaijin wa aho da" ("Foreigners are stupid"). Notehelfer said unlike Japan during the post-war era, more people in Japan are willing to criticize America like the taxi driver or political writer Shintaro Ishihara, who said racism in America was at the core of problems in U.S.-Japan relations. "It is important for American to realize that the post-war is over. The changed

paradigm calls for new models and policies. It's time that the Japanese people restore sovereignty over their own security," said Notehelfer.

Other speakers included: Mike Mochizuki, senior policy analyst, Rand Corporation; Peter Berton, professor of International Relations, USC; and moderator Steve Clemons, executive director, Institute for Independent Japanese Studies.

Arase said that Japanese Americans must work to counter criticism of Japan, but he made some qualifications.

"First, we must distinguish between valid and invalid criticism of Japan," said Arase. The professor said that criticism of government laws or corporate policy is valid but not "blanket condemnations of the culture."

Arase said JACL should focus attention, without silencing discussion, on the fact that vocal critics of Japan can sometimes lead to violence against Asian Americans.

"JACL can play a role in how media covers these issues," said Arase, noting that anti-Asian violence is often not covered by the mainstream media.

Clemons said that JACL has a role in media coverage of U.S.-Japan issues, but needs to use its opportunities wisely. Recalling the press coverage JACL received in the spring of 1992 during a particularly bad period in U.S.-Japan relations, Clemons said, "The leadership of JACL was regularly on McNeil-Lehrer. On these programs, JACL said any discussion of U.S.-Japan relations

promotes hate crimes. It was a major mistake. JACL had the spotlight to talk about more relevant issues. When JACL is fortunate enough to be part of the mainstream dialogue, they need to distinguish between racism and policy issues."

While not discussing the specific incidents Clemons raised, Arase said, "I don't think Japanese Americans are more or less informed on U.S.-Japan relations. To view any criticism of Japan as racist is a mistake."

He said that Japanese Americans should become more educated about U.S.-Japan issues and be critical of both sides, not serving as an advocate for Japan.

"Japanese Americans can help keep debate centered on policy rather than culture," said Arase.

Giving an example, Arase said, "The problems in the case of the auto industry is that when you look at political cartoons, they try to capture the essence of conflict using images of Pearl Harbor or sneaky Japanese. It adds an emotional element to policy issues."

Mochizuki added, "It is important for Japanese Americans to make themselves aware of the issues. If relations between the United States and Japan begin to unravel the consequences will be enormous."

Mochizuki, who briefed Bill Clinton during his presidential campaign on U.S.-Japan issues, criticized the president's economic policies toward Japan.

"In the Clinton Administration, there is a complete disconnect between domestic and foreign economic policy. We need to move toward an export economy," said Mochizuki.

Citing Notehelfer's taxi driver incident, Mochizuki said, "What is critical is that we have not communicated clearly what the U.S. message is to Japan, that's why we get comments like the taxi driver or Ishihara. The appear-

'Japanese Americans can help keep debate centered on policy rather than culture.'

—David Arase

ance is that we are trying to punish Japan. What we are trying to do is give the Japanese people the fruits of their labor. It gets translated into heavy-handedness."

Asked why Japanese Americans aren't more involved, on the policy-making level in these issues, Mochizuki said, "There are two issues. One, the absence

See RELATIONS/page 2

JACL critical of anti-immigrant initiatives

JACL has criticized immigration legislation proposed by the Clinton Administration and by various members of Congress. The House and the Senate introduced versions of the president's *Expedited Exclusion and Alien Smuggling Enhanced Penalties Act of 1993* intended to prevent illegal immigrants with fraudulent documents from applying for political asylum.

The JACL supports the anti-smuggling provisions that would subject convicted smugglers to enhanced sentences and penalties, but objects to some of the asylum process restrictions being proposed. The

legislation would give the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) generally unfettered discretion in screening prospective asylum applicants at airports and other borders. It also removes judicial review on the merits and bars class action lawsuits challenging the implementation of the system.

"Given the INS record for making the wrong decisions in these kinds of cases, the elimination of impartial judicial review on the merits would make the asylum system a mockery," said JACL Washington Representative Karen Narasaki.

JACL also objects to plans being pro-

posed by California government officials that would deny citizenship to children of illegal immigrants and deny these children education, health care and other social services.

JACL National Director Randy Senzaki stated, "of any community, the Japanese American community is most sensitive to the issue of citizenship."

"It is not that long ago that discriminatory laws barred our grandparents from obtaining citizenship. All too often, our country's immigration and naturalization policies have been used as tools of discrimination."

Chapter news

Berkeley

Media images of minority groups were part of a discussion titled, "Ah so homeboy... Racial and Cultural Stereotyping in the Media," Oct. 13 at the North Berkeley Senior Center.

Sponsored by the chapter; Oakland Chapter, NAACP; Jewish Community Relations Council; and the Vietnamese Fisherman Association, the forum addressed portrayals of stereotypes, social attitudes and perceptions in the media. About 50 people attended the discussion.

Panelists included, Arthur Ward, African American actor, Berkeley Black Reportory Group, Inc.; Janis Plotkin, director, Jewish Film Festival; Philip Bui, Vietnamese writer, *L.A. Times* and *San Jose Mercury News* and moderator, Bill Wong, columnist, *Oakland Tribune* and *Asian Week*.

San Francisco

The San Francisco Chapter, JAACL, recently donated a number of copies of the video, "A Personal Matter: Gordon Hirabayashi vs. the United States," to the San

Francisco Unified School District. The district purchased 20 copies, but was unable to pay for all of them, so the chapter donated the remainder.

"This provides at least one copy for each high school in the district and some copies for the video library," said Les Hata, chapter president.

Hirabayashi video available

"A Personal Matter: Gordon Hirabayashi vs. the United States," may still be bought at a reduced price, according to Greg Marutani, San Francisco Chapter, JAACL. The video will be available to JAACL chapters for \$50 rather than the regular price \$125 through June 30, 1994.

Marutani credited Michael Jeung, CrossCurrent Media, with the decision.

"Michael was impressed with the results of the JAACL effort. With the extension, we expect the sales of the videotape to continue because the groundwork has been laid by many individuals across the country," said Marutani.

The chapter is seeking donations to help defray the costs of shipping and selling the videos. Marutani said the chapter has sold 85 tapes so far and expects to sell more with the extension of the lower price.

"While chapter Legacy Fund returns have covered the expenses for mailing the videos and paying the sales tax, we could use financial support from our members and individuals for this special project," said Marutani.

Donations: Education Project, San Francisco Chapter, JAACL, P.O. Box 22425 San Francisco, CA, 94122-0425. Information: Greg Marutani, 415/641-1697, evenings.

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Activist, 442 soldier Kochiyama dies

Asian American activist and member of the 442nd, William Kochiyama passed away October 25 at St. Luke's Hospital in New York. He was 72 and died of multiple cardiac complications.

Kochiyama was born May 10, 1921, as one of only a few Japa-

nese Americans born in Washington, D.C. Interned at the Topaz relocation center, Kochiyama volunteered to fight in "Company K" of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

He and his wife, Mary Yuri Kochiyama were long known for their activism in civil rights issues. In 1981, Kochiyama was among those who testified before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in Washington, D.C. Long-time residents of Harlem, N.Y., the Kochiyamas recently participated in the March on Washing-

ton and were honored at New York City's Day of Remembrance for their contributions to Japanese American redress and reparations. He was also involved with the David Wong Support Committee.

Kochiyama is survived by his wife, Yuri; three sons, Eddie, Jimmy and Tommy; daughter Audee Holman; and seven grandchildren.

At press time, memorial services had not been formalized. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to a charity.

PC to move

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On the Legacy Fund

By GRAYCE UYEHARA

Where earnings should go

As the chairwoman of the JACL Legacy Fund Campaign Committee, originally the Steering Committee, I believe I have the responsibility to clarify Jonathan Kaji's "By the Board" article in the *Pacific Citizen*, Oct. 15-21 issue, headlined "Explaining JACL funds."

The report covers all of the various JACL funds which are classified as restricted and endowment funds. There are 14 restricted and seven endowment funds. "All of these funds are restricted either because of specific requests which were made by the donors or because of the terms under which the funds were solicited," Kaji says in his article.

I find the listing of only one assigned allotment from the annual earnings disbursement from the Legacy Fund under the restricted funds to be somewhat confusing.

Among the seven endowment funds listed in Kaji's article we note the Legacy Endowment (\$3,804,817) — "65% of earnings go to general operations (emphasis mine) . . ." The earnings disbursement formula was accepted by the 1990 National Council at San Diego. It seems to me that once the disbursement formula was set, the total earnings from the Legacy Fund should be considered restricted. The earnings must be distributed as set by National Council. Thus, the restricted funds should show the total disbursement from earnings from the 1992 earnings as \$120,311.70. The disbursement

formula is a clear restriction.

The National Board adopted a more detailed JACL Legacy Fund Statement at the July 12 and 14, 1991, meeting for the purpose of filling out the original statement. This statement states that the earnings from the Legacy Fund are to be used "to implement the organization's mission, its purposes and its biennial Program for Action." No where in the official Legacy Fund Statement on the use of the 65% of earnings to National does it say that the allocation is for "general operations."

At the 1992 Denver convention, the National Council approved the extension of the campaign to a five-year period, ending in 1995. Further, the campaign committee composition was to change to a committee appointed by the National president and approved by the National Board. The change was to place the Legacy Fund campaign under the board. Rightfully, fund-raising is one of the major responsibilities of board members in most organizations. As officers elected by the chapters, vis-a-vis the National Council, the Board has responsibility for the Legacy Fund. The secretary-treasurer serves on the Campaign and Endowment Investment Committee of the Legacy Fund.

Here is a key excerpt from the National JACL Legacy Fund Statement:

I. Purposes of the Fund
 The purpose of the JACL Legacy Fund is to establish a perpetual endowment from which only the

earnings will be used to implement the organization's missions, its purpose and its biennial Program for Action.

- 65% of the annual earnings will be distributed to the National JACL.

- 20% of the annual earnings will be distributed to the chapters through the district councils in direct proportion to the amounts raised by the chapters.

- 10% of the annual earnings will be set aside for chapters and district councils for programs that are consistent with the goals of the JACL Program for Action.

- 5% of the annual earnings will be reinvested by the fund.

I hope that this official case statement makes clear that the purpose of the Legacy Fund earnings is to support programs and not general operations. There are two other endowments that were established for earnings to be used for general operations—the Life Membership Endowment and the National Endowment. But, at no time, in my review of the fund-raising plan for the Legacy Fund, was the \$10 million campaign goal and its earnings identified for "general operations" purposes.

Cherry Kinoshita's Ad Hoc Committee to develop the fund-raising plan specified that the income from the endowment fund would be utilized for sustaining JACL and for programmatic goals. The campaign committee in its campaign materials has informed the chapters and the general public that the earnings will be used for JACL's Program for Action.

The Program for Action is the roadmap for JACL programs determined by National Council Action. Certainly, all the programs listed cannot be developed during the biennium. It would

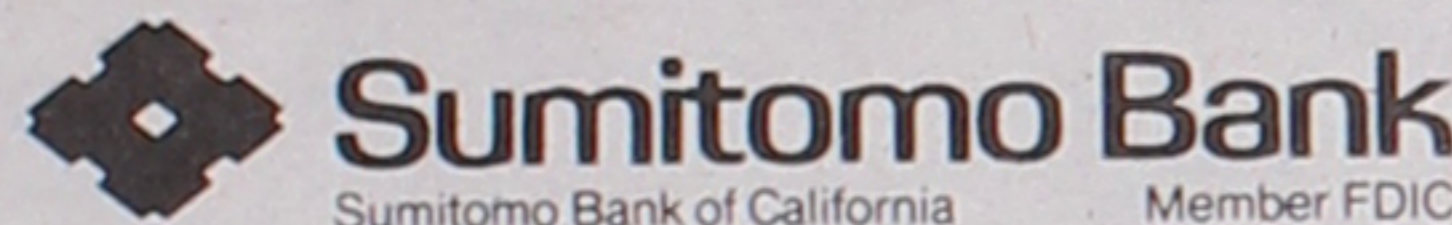
See LEGACY/page 7

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Enough is enough

Hey now, enough is enough. Let's see if we can't bring order and reason to this disgraceful screaming catfight between JACL's National Board and paid headquarters staff on one side, and *Pacific Citizen* and its staff and board on the other, and their respective supporters.

So many charges have been flung, actions precipitated and egos bruised that I'm not sure the situation can be resolved. But it had better be, or JACL as a viable national organization is finished. So we'd better try.

First, let's review the facts. Some members of the National Board and the headquarters staff had been unhappy with *Pacific Citizen's* treatment of the news. Their dissatisfaction was aired at a National Board meeting in San Francisco Sept. 25-26. The PC side left the meeting the first day thinking progress had been made toward understanding. Not so. Discussion returned to PC the second day with renewed fervor. Tempers flared and some inflammatory remarks were made. JACL President Lillian Kimura directed Paul M. Shinkawa, chair of the PC board, not to

publish a detailed account of the proceedings.

Shinkawa, citing the opinion of JACL's legal counsel, interpreted Kimura's order as a violation of JACL's constitution which places responsibility for PC on the PC board. He considered the gag order an attempt to keep important information from the membership and declined to carry it out. Kimura asked for Shinkawa's resignation, which she had authority to do, and he tendered it.

In the absence of orders from Shinkawa's successor, Editor Richard Suenaga proceeded to publish a lengthy account of the meeting on the grounds that the membership was entitled to know what was going on. It was not pretty.

Neither was the aftermath, which continues to rage.

The issue is what PC should be. The PC Board and the By-laws provide for an independent newspaper. The National Board and staff see PC as abusing its independence by carping at the leadership and some of the policies of the organization that owns it.

The PC sees its mandate from the JACL membership as including freedom to report

or comment as it sees fit and let the chips fall where they may. Sometimes it is difficult to be both independent and a cheerleader for JACL.

How to solve that dilemma was the agenda for the San Francisco meeting. Unfortunately, while a firm and fair hand was required of the chair, the meeting according to those present was allowed to deteriorate into an immoderate and largely one-sided shouting match. Some feel this disorder was a set-up for getting rid of Shinkawa whose views were seen as intolerable. Whatever the reason, his ouster was an error. It resolved nothing. It only polarized the rift. And whether it was meant that way or not, it also signaled the chair's position that Shinkawa was the issue. Goodbye Paul, goodbye problem. The reality is that Shinkawa needed to be, not the scapegoat driven from the conference room, but a part of the solution-seeking process.

The meeting was adjourned but the debate has deteriorated into a print war which is no substitute for discussion.

Perhaps PC's longstanding role as a militant and independent publication, executed
See HOSOKAWA/page 8

Letters

Are we to expect censorship, reader asks

After reading news of the recent firing of Paul M. Shinkawa, I am confused, upset and plain befuddled. Do these events mean that National JACL will censor the information that is reported to us by PC? Does this mean that only 'official' information will be passed on to the members and that only "official" opinions will be heard?

Am I to believe that the "official" opinion of *Rising Sun* is that it is racist? (I and many of my JACL friends do not believe it is) And that gays belong in the military? Whose view will be the "official" one? Will the members have some sort of say or will "officialdom" be determined by one's position on the JACL National Board?

I, for one, was beginning to really enjoy reading PC and found it to be revitalized, refreshing, stimulating and livelier than it has ever been. Paul M. Shinkawa has my thanks and my respect for his integrity and for the objective, informative journalism he brought to the *Pacific Citizen*. His leaving is more our loss than his, I'm afraid.

If the JACL Board desires merely a vehicle to voice its own opinions, it should not have a newspaper — but rather should present its views via a newsletter. However, is the JACL Board so insecure that information must be spoon fed to its members in such a manner as to be always unquestioned? It is a sorry occasion when we are treated like ignoramus by the very Board we elected.

Barbara Nekoba
Alexandria, Va.

Shinkawa firing was petty, reader says

I recently subscribed to the *Pacific Citizen* so that I could read the latest happenings of the Japanese people in general across the states.

I am appalled at the political climate existing within the boards. I refer to the firing of a very good man by the JACL National President. It boils down to pure egotism, vanity, and personal pettiness. Who can fire her? Too much power is a thing of evil. And she just happens to be a woman to boot! Ugh! I may not renew my subscription.

Jean Y. Yen
Sacramento

If PC censored, reader will cancel membership

I am very disappointed by the course of events regarding the *Pacific Citizen* that transpired at the last national board meeting.

As a JACL member for the past 12 years and a former national youth council chair, I have regularly read the PC to keep up with

See LETTERS/page 6

Come-on Sense

KARL K. NOBUYUKI

What was National's *Rising Sun* rationale?



Though it hasn't been specifically stated, it appears that much of the disconcerts by the JACL National Board about the PC was the *Rising Sun* brouhaha that lead to the subsequent firing of the PC board chair. It was noted that Paul M. Shinkawa's freedom of speech policy "hurt" the League's credibility with its coalition. Evidently, this so-called coalition was formed to provide a unified front to oppose the book and motion picture on racial grounds. This was to be a classical case of "Japan bashing" and Asian violence.

The issue of the *Rising Sun* is still repeatedly referenced in articles and editorials from the National president to the National staff. It is pointed to as the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. And, although I felt that the issue was "behind" us the actions of the National Board against the PC have forced this regurgitation...

I don't understand the rationale behind the *Rising Sun* coalition. Granted, there was an impressive list of groups, but what was the long-term objective? Was the coalition formed to address the issue of media images, Japan bashing, anti-Asian violence, or what?

One needs to ask the questions.

Experienced coalition builders recognize that at times coalition members may not be able to fully meet expectations. That's the nature of a coalition. Nonetheless, these experienced persons will also contend that the long-term objective is what will determine if the coalition was/is viable or not. Likewise, these same experts will admit that at times a coalition is built only for a short-term objective or single issue objective. What was ours?

In the specific case of the *Rising Sun* coalition it does not appear that the League's participation warranted the drastic action that the National Board took against the PC. Only those inexperienced and overly sensitive to public disclosure would react to censorship and seeking the sacrificial lamb. Criticism comes with the territory of leadership.

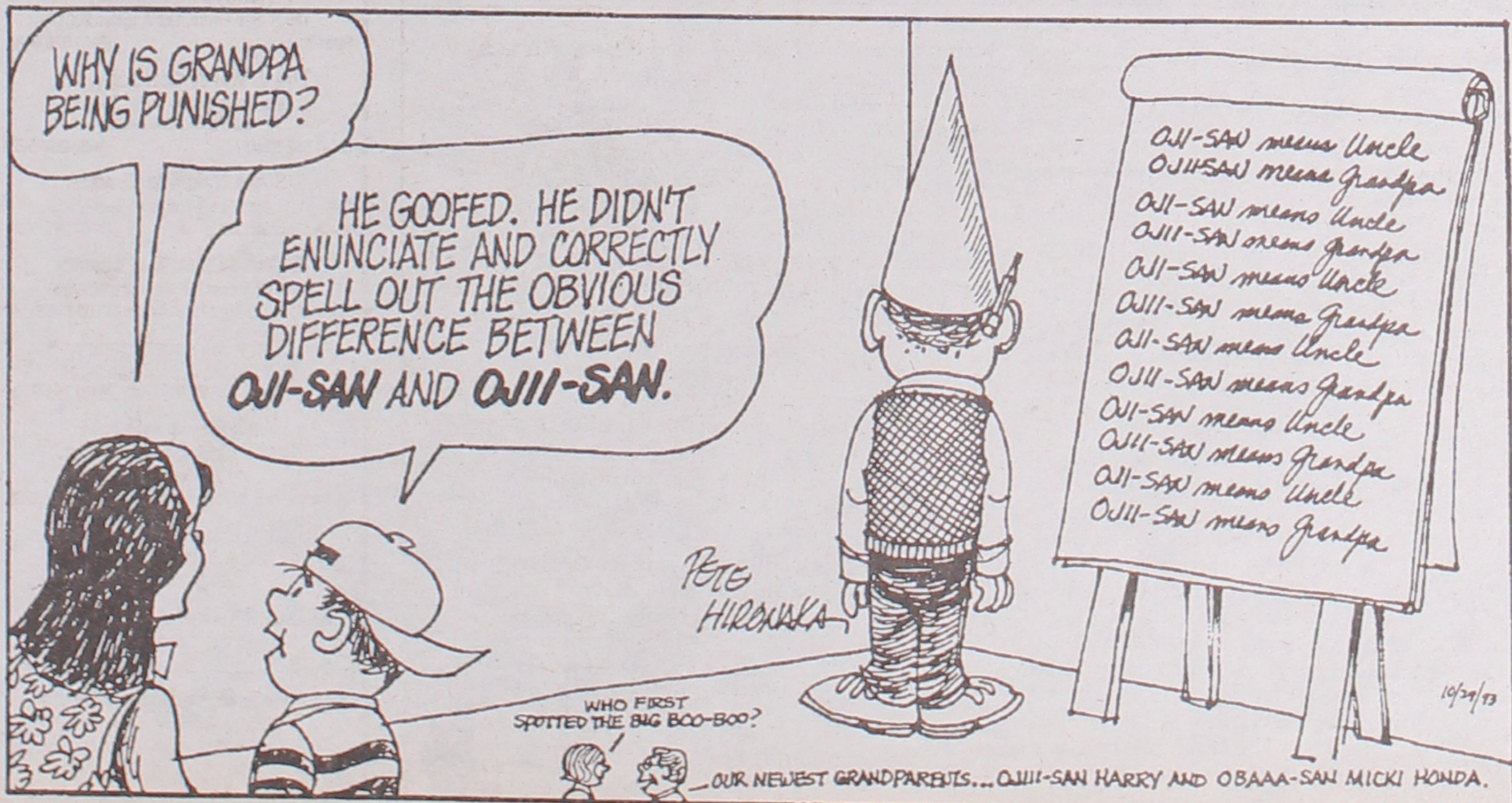
My chapter president passed on to me National JACL's position paper and support documents regarding the *Rising Sun* issue. They were very disappointing. There was no objective analysis as to why the *Rising Sun* was so awful. The documents consisted of testimonials of persons who

were the spokespersons of the coalition and a chronology of events. The statements were virtually all conclusions. No comments were identifiable to the Japanese reaction. Basically, there was a leaping conclusion that the book and movie were bad, a *faits accomplis*. As reported by other writers in the PC, the National Board was silent and did not take a specific action to oppose the book or motion picture.

Later, after the JACL debacle in September, it appeared that the National Board was more upset about the "loss of credibility" that JACL suffered from its effort to build this "coalition" than it was about the contents of the book or motion picture. Talk about bad PR...

I had to ask myself, at what time did JACL elect to serve as movie critic vis-a-vis its main mission, and how the formation of this coalition became more important than the League's commitment to civil rights. I had to also ask what the specific objective of National staff was in formulating/participating in this coalition, on the basis of what authority, what analytical premise and what end? Did the end (forming/participating

See NOBUYUKI/page 7



Pacific Citizen Policies

Editorials, columns and cartoons

The opinions, views and statements in the editorials, columns and cartoons appearing in *Pacific Citizen* are those of the authors and as such do not necessarily represent the Japanese American Citizens League. *Pacific Citizen* editorials, columns, and cartoons of staff will be clearly labeled as such.

Pacific Citizen welcomes for consideration editorials and columns from members of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Japanese American community at large, and beyond. They should be no longer than approximately 500 words. Send them to: Editorial Opinion, *Pacific Citizen*, 701 E. 3rd St., Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

Letters

Pacific Citizen welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be brief, are subject to editing and those unpublished can be neither acknowledged nor returned. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and daytime telephone number. Because of limited space we may condense letters that are accepted for publication. We do not publish form letters, copies or letters written to other publications. Fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail to Letters to the Editor, *Pacific Citizen*, 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

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By the board

By NEAL TANIGUCHI

The irresponsible use of the free press

Bill Hosokawa believes that the National Board "emasculated" the newspaper. The Board sought to "usurp the *Pacific Citizen's* constitutionally mandated right of editorial independence and convert it into a docile mouthpiece for the National Board and the paid staff," he writes. Richard Suenaga, editor, refers to the National Board as, "leadership lost," all because he believes that the National Board is attempting to strip the PC of its Free Press rights. **NOT!! WRONG!!** Suenaga, Hosokawa, as well as other solicited supporters of the PC refuse to admit to the real issue: **RESPONSIBLE PRESS AND THE ROLE OF THE PACIFIC CITIZEN IN THE JACL.**

The PC is irresponsibly using its Free Press rights to assert a JACL role, for which it was never intended.

I, as a member of the National Board, do not argue with the constitutional right of free press, but I strongly argue for the responsible use of those rights, especially in the context of the PC's role and place in the JACL.

The *Pacific Citizen* is not an independent newspaper, as some PC Board members and staff want to believe. The PC is an integral part of the JACL corporation. The PC is the official publication of the JACL, as its masthead proclaims. The Constitution and By-laws confer upon it the role of the educational and public relations vehicle of the JACL. Those same Constitution and By-laws also give the PC a degree of edito-

rial independence, so that a "free expression of ideas, criticism, and analysis" can flow.

What does all of this mean to you as a member of the JACL? Well, the PC's responsible use of its free press rights should be measured by its place in the JACL corporation, its role as the official publication of the JACL, its role as the educational and public relations vehicle of the JACL, and its role as an editorially independent publication of the JACL. Responsible press in the PC context means that all of its articles and editorials must exhibit a balance of all of these roles.

Unfortunately, the PC has failed miserably. Suenaga, Hosokawa, Shinkawa, and others push for an extremely narrow role of complete editorial independence, with the PC acting as a "watch dog" over the National Board and staff. The PC is trying to assume a "counter-balance" role to offset the National Board and staff. In the process, it has gradually begun to ignore its other roles as the official publication and as the educational and public relations vehicle.

The very term, "watch dog" implies to me that PC Board members, the PC staff, and perhaps others believe that the membership have a genuine mistrust of the leadership and the national staff. They believe that the PC's role is to point out what the leadership and staff is not doing or accomplishing. I would suggest that this "watch-

dog" approach is counterproductive, naturally places the membership and the leadership in adversarial positions, and promotes in-fighting within the organization. Witness the circus the PC has presented in this publication in recent weeks!

What the PC is not doing adequately is being a true educational and public relations vehicle. The PC should be writing critical, in-depth analyses, which make our membership think about the complexity of civil rights, and ethnic or racial issues. Instead, the PC merely reports the facts, or in some cases, the complaints of readers. The editors do not even attempt to objectively interpret the reported facts.

For example, the PC has never adequately covered the National Board meetings during my four years tenure on the National Board. Often, only a summary of motions is ever printed. Issues analyses are never published. I have yet to see some of the organization white papers, or position statements, printed. Furthermore, staff always submit quarterly reports of their activities at these meetings, but the PC never writes on the contents of these reports.

The PC is not reporting on all of the positive and hard work put in by the staff. The PC does not do the internal PR needed to promote the efforts of the organization.

In another example, it has been three weeks since the Board meeting, and as of the writing of this column, I have not seen a reporting on our new JACL chapter, the

Georgia Chapter. The granting of a chapter charter to Georgia is significant to our civil rights cause, because, outside of the Houston Chapter, the JACL does not have chapter membership in the southern states. The Georgia Chapter represents a positive step forward in recognizing the emerging Japanese American community in Atlanta, Ga. Not recognizing the new Georgia Chapter is a failure on the PC's part to fulfill its PR and educational role in JACL.

The Jap Road article is another example. As I alluded to in a previous editorial, the PC did not report about JAP Road in a positive or balanced way. The PC did not provide a complete analysis.

Responsible press also means adhering to some form of ethical conduct, both in editorial conduct and in conducting the business affairs of the newspaper. Mr. Suenaga's recent editorials have overstepped the bounds of reasonableness and objectivity. Any other member of the National staff would have been fired for similar comments, but because Suenaga is the editor of the PC, he hides behind his protection of free press.

Some National Board members, including myself, question the PC's business practices. I would like to know, and I am sure that JACL members would like to know: Why did the PC editor sell his personal furniture to the PC? Do you ensure the legitimate collection of all advertising revenues for all of the ads we see in the PC?

See TANIGUCHI/page 7

Pacific Citizen response

By RICHARD SUENAGA

Answering Taniguchi's charges

Pacific Citizen responds to these charges (in italics) issued by Neal Taniguchi, JACL National vice president for general operations:

● *That PC solicited editorials and letters of support.*

This statement gives grievous insult to those who wrote to express their views on this matter. Categorically, no one from the *Pacific Citizen* staff solicited a single editorial or letter. Individuals took the time to write out of their own concern to do so. PC believes in that right, which applies to all who would disagree with PC.

● *"I have not seen a reporting on our new JACL chapter, the Georgia Chapter."*

PC reported this news in the Oct. 8-14 issue, page 4.

● *The PC has never adequately covered the National Board meetings during my four years tenure on the National Board.*

The current PC staff has covered all of the National Board meetings on page one of issues following the event.

● *"Why did the PC editor sell his personal furniture to the PC?"*

Prior to 1992, the PC office had no table to conduct meetings. I specifically requested

PC Business Manager Joyce Kato to research the cost of a meeting table which I wanted clearly documented. Her inquiries with furniture stores revealed that a no-frills meeting table would cost PC \$800 to \$1,000. I owned two new library-style tables that were unused from a previous business that could be used together as one meeting table. They were valued at more than \$800. I sold them to PC for \$500, to be paid in installments. I saved PC \$300 to \$500 in this manner. All this was carefully and specifically documented by my instructions and sent to National headquarters as Taniguchi must know from his accusation.

Further, I have donated equipment to PC, including a microwave oven, fan, chairs, and other various office and production supplies. As former PC editor, Harry Honda has likewise brought in personal belongings that continue to be used by PC staff. These are savings that amount to hundreds of dollars.

● *Do you ensure the legitimate collection of all advertising revenues for all of the ads we see in the PC?"*

Yes. Tardy accounts are turned over to a collection agency, Dun & Bradstreet.

● *Another complaint previously sent to the editor by Taniguchi was the issue of a PC restaurant trade ad.*

PC hired a sales advertising manager in late 1991 to increase PC ad revenues. As part of this effort, he set up a trade with Ocean Sea Food Restaurant of Los Angeles, to be used for prospective advertising clients and business people. He was, for example, trying to set up a luncheon meeting of key officials of the Japan External Trade Organization, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and other key local figures to establish a business dialogue and develop PC editorial stories on U.S.-Japan trade.

He resigned in May of 1993, leaving the trade account with the restaurant unused. The sales advertising manager position was left vacant.

● *Why did the PC Board chair get his American Express Card annual fee reimbursed, when the National Board members, as well as every other JACL VISA cardholder, must pay their annual fee?"*

As PC Board chair, Paul M. Shinkawa communicated with me almost daily, often by long distance telefax transmissions. To avoid charges to his employer's telephone

account, he used the PC's corporate American Express account since it can also be used as an AT&T telephone credit card.

Shinkawa also used the card for the hotel room at the EDC-MDC-MPDC tri-district meeting in Cleveland where he shared a room with me to reduce PC costs.

He attended this event to meet with PC Board members who were not able to attend the PC Board meeting in Los Angeles three months earlier. This was ordinarily a cost that would have been reimbursed to him anyway.

At the Cleveland event, Shinkawa paid all registration, banquet and ground transportation costs out of his own pocket since he was not an official delegate for his chapter or district and did not want to add additional costs to PC's financial burden.

It was my decision to add a corporate card for Shinkawa. Since the American Express card is a corporate account for the PC, the annual fee was charged to the PC. After PC paid the annual fee to American Express, Shinkawa reimbursed the PC for the same exact amount.

On the day that he was fired by President

See RESPONSE/page 8

Letters

(continued from page 5)

Japanese and Asian American related news. PC presents itself in style and format as a newspaper; therefore, I assume it reports newsworthy issues professionally and objectively, and provides a forum for presenting alternate points of view.

I am not interested in a one-dimensional publication only applauding the latest JACL accomplishments. In fact, a comprehensive, unbiased newspaper is exactly what the JACL needs to keep its membership well-informed, interested and active in the issues surrounding the community. Without an independent PC, the JACL serves no purpose except self-indulgence.

If the national board intends to restrict and censor PC and thus control the debate on important Asian American issues, I do not see any value in continuing my membership or support. I hope instead that the board will listen and find a way to recognize the importance of an independent, newsworthy paper.

Mika Hiramatsu
Oakland, Calif.

Says situation is out of perspective

The more things change, the more they remain the same . . . (A. Karr, 1849)

The current uproar within the National JACL leadership brings to mind several enduring truths about the JACL of which I would like to enumerate just a few.

1. At times, we people of Japanese ancestry tend to take ourselves much too seriously. This is all too often exemplified by those who have suddenly been thrust into the ranks of national JACL leadership.

2. Speaking from direct experience, some years ago, a further aspect of our group character seems to be the lack of panache in dealing with criticism, especially when it comes from within the organization.

3. From the start of each biennium, the interest of the real owners of the JACL, i.e., the membership, is lost sight of and becomes submerged in a miasma of egos, envy, and posturing by the National leadership. It's almost as if the National Board is the JACL to the exclusion of everyone else.

4. With the exception of redress, thanks to Dr. Clifford Uyeda, John Tateishi, Karl

Nobuyuki, among others, who were at the helm in launching this program back in 1978, the JACL has a continuing problem of keeping things in perspective. Which is the inability to focus on the larger issues which are of concern to the J.A. community. Instead, it squanders inordinate time and scarce resources by getting bogged down in bureaucratic make-work projects like personnel manuals, reorganization, "long-term planning," etc.

5. The role of the *Pacific Citizen* in the organization has always been overstated to the point that the proverbial tail wags the dog. The PC vs. National Board conflict is anything but new. And, the PC does consume a disproportionate share of organization dollars and time which might be better utilized in other pursuits.

I wonder if this whole PC problem can be resolved by spinning off—privatize, if you will—its operations into a separate corporate entity and allowing it to sink or swim on its own. My feeling is that there are enough of us out there willing to invest in a national JA publication.

Has the time come to reinvent the JACL? . . . and this, too, shall pass away . . .

(Anonymous)

George Kodama
Los Angeles

President had right to fire Shinkawa

I do not believe all the howling that is going on regarding the Kimura/Shinkawa affair.

All of you guys (men and women) that are barking at her heels — please back off — and think about it for a minute.

Ms. Kimura, president, JACL, has every right to dismiss Mr. Shinkawa, PC Board chair. Mr. Shinkawa was appointed to his position at the pleasure of President Kimura. If she finds that the PC chair is not discharging his duties for the best interest of all concerned — it is time for him to go.

It is a tough mean jungle out there, and believe me President Kimura has enough problems fighting the tough fight without all the internal nonsense that she has to deal with.

M. Yamanaka
Palo Alto, Calif.

